

CLAIMS

1. A polling method for use in communicating information from a wireless transceiver unit to a wireless base unit, the polling method comprising:

5 receiving an information request message over a wireless communication channel;

sending information in response to the information request message; and
repeating the receiving and sending on a regular basis.

10 2. The polling method according to claim 1, further comprising:
initiating the repeated receiving and sending in response to a detected problem.

15 3. The polling method according to claim 1, further comprising:
detecting a problem;
sending a problem detection message in response to detecting the problem; and
initiating the repeated receiving and sending in response to the problem detection message.

20 4. The polling method according to claim 1, further comprising:
detecting a communication failure on a data traffic channel; and
initiating the repeated receiving and sending in response to detecting the communication failure.

25 5. The polling method according to claim 1, further comprising:
detecting that a power failure has occurred; and

initiating the repeated receiving and sending in response to detecting that the power failure has occurred.

5 6. The polling method according to claim 1, further comprising:
delaying a random period of time prior to sending the information.

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10 7. The polling method according to claim 1, wherein sending
comprises sending the information over a shared channel, the polling method
further comprising:
delaying a random period of time prior to sending the information over
the shared channel.

15 8. The polling method according to claim 1, wherein the information
request message comprises data indicative of a requested information type and
the information sent corresponds to the requested information type.

20 9. A polling method for use in communicating information from a
wireless transceiver unit to a wireless base unit, the polling method comprising:
sending an information request message over a wireless communication
channel;
receiving information in response to the information request message; and
repeating the sending and receiving on a regular basis.

25 10. The polling method according to claim 9, further comprising:
initiating the repeated sending and receiving in response to a detected
problem.

11. The polling method according to claim 9, further comprising:
receiving a problem detection message; and
initiating the repeated receiving and sending in response to the problem
detection message.

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12. The polling method according to claim 9, further comprising:
detecting a communication failure on a data traffic channel; and
initiating the repeated receiving and sending in response to detecting the
communication failure.

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13. The polling method according to claim 9, further comprising:
detecting a communication failure on a data traffic channel;
tearing down the data traffic channel after detecting the communication
failure; and
initiating the repeated receiving and sending in response to detecting the
communication failure.

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14. The polling method according to claim 9, further comprising:
detecting that a power failure has occurred; and
initiating the repeated receiving and sending in response to detecting that
the power failure has occurred.

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15. The polling method according to claim 9, wherein sending the
polling request message comprises broadcasting it for receipt by a plurality of
wireless transceiver units, the polling method further comprising:
receiving the information from each one of the wireless transceiver units
at random points in time.

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16. The polling method according to claim 9, wherein sending the polling request message comprises broadcasting it for receipt by a plurality of wireless transceiver units, the polling method further comprising:

5 receiving information from each one of the wireless transceiver units at random points in time over a shared channel.

17. The polling method according to claim 9, wherein the polling request message comprises data indicative of a requested information type and the information sent corresponds to the requested information type.

18. A polling method for use in communicating information from a wireless transceiver unit to a wireless base unit, the polling method comprising:

15 detecting that a power failure involving a wireless transceiver unit has occurred;

tearing down a wireless data traffic channel used by the wireless transceiver unit in response to detecting; and

polling the wireless transceiver unit for information in response to detecting that the power failure has occurred.

19. The polling method according to claim 18, wherein polling comprises polling for information on a periodic basis.

20. The polling method according to claim 18, wherein polling comprises sending an information request message to the wireless transceiver unit over a control channel.

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26. A polling method for use in communicating information from a plurality of wireless transceiver units to a wireless base unit, the wireless transceiver units and wireless base unit having a broadcast channel available therebetween, the polling method comprising:

5 sending an information request message over a broadcast channel for receipt by a plurality of wireless transceiver units; and

receiving information from each available wireless transceiver unit at random points in time over a shared channel in response to sending the information request message.

27. The polling method according to claim 26, wherein the information comprises status information.

28. The polling method according to claim 26, further comprising: repeating the sending and receiving on a periodic basis.

29. A polling method for use in communicating information from a wireless transceiver unit to a wireless base unit, the polling method comprising:

receiving an information request message over a broadcast channel; delaying for a random period of time in response to receiving the information request message; and

sending information corresponding to the information request message over a shared channel after delaying for the random period of time.

30. The polling method according to claim 29, wherein the information comprises status information.

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31. The polling method according to claim 29, further comprising:
repeating the receiving, delaying, and sending on a periodic basis.

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